GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:402
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006
USE OF ANTIBIOTICS
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organization(WHO) has advised the doctors to reduce prescribing antibiotics;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to educate the public about the adverse effect of overuse of antibiotics; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to ensure compliance with the advice of the WHO?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The World Health Organization (WHO) advocates rational use of drugs as over use of antimicrobial agents may lead to increased antimicrobial resistance.

(c) & (d) The proposal of creating awareness among the consumers above the adverse effects of overuse of antibiotics was discussed in the 35th Meeting of Drugs Consultative Committee (a statutory committee under section 7 of Drugs and Cosmetics Act) held in April 2004. The committee observed that antibiotics are prescription drugs under Schedule 'H' of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and they are required to be sold against the prescription of Registered Medical Practitioners only. All state drug regulatory authorities were requested to keep strict vigil over the sale of antibiotics without prescription. It was also urged that the Chemists and Druggists Associations are advised to educate consumers about perils of self medication of antibiotics.